(ii) For loss of substantial portion of land @ Rs.10,000 per hectare.

(iii) For loss of agricultural/horticultural crops @ Rs.2,000 per hectare.

Pricing of Phosphoric Acid

3892. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not yet started the process of negotiating the price of phosphoric acid which is crucial for the DAP supply;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore, and by when it is likely to be settled; and

(c) if not, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Fertilizer raw materials/intermediates including phosphoric acid is free to import in the country. The Phosphatic fertilizer manufacturers are procuring phosphoric acid either from their Joint Ventures abroad or from the international suppliers of phosphoric acid at the price and terms & conditions negotiated by them. The Phosphoric Acid Consumer Group (PACG) formed by the Phosphatic fertilizer manufacturers negotiates the quantity & price of phosphoric acid with the international suppliers on year-to-year basis. PACG has already started negotiations for procuring phosphoric acid during the year 2005-06.

Task Force on Drug Price Control

3893. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a separate task force to explore

various options other than price control to keep up life saving drugs affordable;

(b) if so, whether this task force was set up following the finalisation of trade margins by the Sandhu Committee set up earlier;

(c) if so, whether task force suggested to amend the target set under the Price Control Order, 1998 to cap trade margins of drugs which are not under the price control; and

(d) if so, by what time any legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) A Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Advisor (PP), Planning Commission to explore various options other than price control for achieving the objective of making available life-saving drugs at reasonable prices.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (b), as above.

National Policy on Petrochemicals

3894. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Policy on Petrochemicals is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that through the proposed policy, Government are going to set up Plastic Development Council for modernization and upgradation of technology, to boost exports, recycling etc;

(c) whether Government would think of setting up of Plastic Technology Upgradation Fund on the lines of Technology Upgradation Fund for Textiles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes Sir. A national Policy on Petrochemicals is being finalized by this Department.